Music Department Syllabus

Musical Theatre Score Study  
MU/TH 303

3 credit hours  
New

I. Catalogue Description
Study of musical theatre literature through analysis, guided listening, and performance. Selections from early development to the present will be included. The course will cover the major epochs of Music Theatre (e.g. operetta, Golden Age, vaudeville, rock opera, etc.) and will also include study of instrumentation, the relationship between libretto and music, vocal techniques, and voice classification.

II. Prerequisites:
A. MM103 Basic Harmony and Form
B. MM106 Aural Skills II
C. MU152 Functional Piano II
D. Or by permission of instructor

III. Objectives:
A. To develop an understanding of the broad range of literature and styles in this genre from the perspective of director and performer
B. Develop an understanding of voice classification in Musical Theatre

IV. Expectations of Students
A. Completion of all written and listening assignments
B. Develop an audition/performance portfolio of pieces specific to unique voice classifications
C. Performance of selected literature in class

V. Content

Score reading  
Chord symbols, Notation analysis, Listening to vs. reading music, Written expression of the aural experience  
2 weeks

Voice Typing  
"Fach" System, Selecting the correct literature for your voice/physical type  
1 week

Picking a Musical  
Criteria for selecting a show for your needs  
Voice types, difficulty, and personnel, orchestration, costs, choreography, scenery, costumes,  
1 week

Study of Literature by major epoch  
(listed are some of the composers and styles to be studied in each section)
Early developments, foreign influences 1 week
John Gay, Singspiel, Opera Buffa, Offenbach, Vaudeville

Operetta 2 weeks
Gilbert & Sullivan, Johann Strauss, Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg

Golden Age 3 weeks
Irving Berlin, Rogers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Lowe, Cole Porter, Frank Loesser, Leonard Bernstein

Post War Development of Musical Theatre 3 weeks
Kander & Ebb, Jules Styne, Stephen Sondheim, Burton Lane, Lionel Bart, Lucy Simon

Pop/Rock Musical Theatre 2 weeks
Andrew Lloyd Webber, Stephen Schwartz, Frank Wildhorn, Claude-Michel Schoenberg, Marvin Hamlish

Evaluation/projects 1 week

VI. Textbook

Students may also be required to purchase music appropriate to their voice type.

Other sources:

VII. Grading
Exams (written and listening) 30%
Classroom presentations (reports and performances) 40%
Portfolio 30%
To include resume, solo repertory list, music, complete roles list, and other materials required for auditions.